

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 02936 271221Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SSC-01 EUR-12
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R 271025Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 691

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2936

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, CE

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON ALEXANDER FAIRLIE WIJEMANNE, SRI
LANKAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO ITALY

1. AN ATTORNEY, WIJEMANNE IS MARRIED TO PRESIDENT JIMR. JAYE-
WARDENE'S COUSIN; THEY HAVE THREE SONS AND ONE DAUGHTER.
THE WIJEMANNES ARE BUDDHISTS, FRIENDLY TOWARD AMERICANS AND
ENJOY SOCIALIZING WITH THEM. HE IS KNOWN FOR HIS PROFESSIONAL
COMPETENCE AND GENIAL PERSONALITY.

2. WIJEMANNE, WHO WAS BORN IN 1907, HAS PRACTICED LAW IN
SRI LANKA SINCE COMPLETING HIS LAW STUDIES IN LONDON IN 1930.
HISEARLIER EDUCATION WAS IN SRI LANKA. NO STRANGER TO PUBLIC
LIFE, WIJEMANNE HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING
UNITED NATIONAL PARTY SINCE 1950. HE HAS SERVED IN THE
SRI LANKA SENATE (1963-71) AND AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE, AND
HAS REPRESENTAED SRI LANKA AT SEVERAL COMMONWEALTH PRIME
MINISTERS' CONFERENCES IN LONDON.

3. COMMENT: WIJEMANNE'S APPOINTMENT IF ANOTHER ADDITION TO
THE LIST OF PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE'S RELATIVES ELEVATED TO HIGH
POSITION, A SRI LANKAN CUSTOM OBSERVED NO MATTER WHICH PARTY
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IS IN POWER. GSL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS DO NOT CONSIDER
THAT HE WILL PROVIDE A STRONG REPRESENTATIONAL PERSONALITY
IN ROME.
LEVIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
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Draft Date: 27 jun 1978
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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